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Volunteer Recruitment & Retention Stipend Pilot Program Fact Sheet

What is the program?

In 2014, the Legislature passed a three year Volunteer Recruitment & Retention Stipend pilot program. The intent of this program is to provide an annual \$500.00 stipend payment to volunteer or paid on call firefighters, ambulance attendants, and emergency medical responders that have provided service for fire departments or EMS organizations within the 14 county pilot area and meet the program qualifications. The pilot program is in place for the calendar years 2014, 2015, and 2016 and will be administered by the State Fire Marshal Division.

What counties are eligible in the pilot program?

The eligible counties are: Beltrami, Clearwater, Mahnomen, Todd, Morrison, Kandiyohi, Chippewa, Renville, Redwood, Watonwan, Faribault, Freeborn, Fillmore and Houston.

How do firefighters, ambulance personnel or emergency medical responders qualify for the stipend and when is the stipend paid?

To qualify for the stipend you must be a qualified volunteer or paid on call member of a qualified entity within the listed 14 county pilot areas and serve 365 calendar days from January 1st thru December 31st in each of the eligible years:

- January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014 (\$500 stipend paid September 2015)
- January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015 (\$500 stipend paid September 2016)
- January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016 (\$500 stipend paid September 2017)

The \$500 stipend will be paid to each qualified member in September of the following year as indicated above.

If I am a qualified volunteer for both a fire department and an EMS provider would I qualify for more than one \$500.00 stipend yearly?

No, you are eligible to receive only one \$500 stipend for each year you were a member of a qualified entity for 365 calendar days (January – December) during the three year pilot program.

If I am a full-time firefighter with a career department in one of the 14 county pilot areas am I eligible for the stipend?

No, as a full time firefighter for a career department you are not eligible for the stipend.

If I am a full time firefighter with a career department and also a volunteer or paid on call firefighter would I be eligible to receive the stipend.

Yes, if you are a full time firefighter with a career department **and** a qualified member of a volunteer or paid on call department in the 14 county pilot areas, then you would be eligible for the stipend.

If I am on active military leave from a qualified entity would I still be eligible for the stipend?

Yes, if you are on military leave from a qualified entity you would be eligible for the stipend.

If I am on medical leave from a qualified entity would I still be eligible for the stipend?

Yes, if you are on medical leave from a qualified entity you would be eligible for the stipend.

What do I have to do to apply for the stipend?

Detailed information about the program along with the required application will be mailed to all qualified entities in January 2015.

The pilot program requires that recruitment and retention data be collected from comparison counties, what are those counties?

The comparison counties are: Mower, Martin, Blue Earth, Cottonwood, Brown, Swift, Meeker, Douglas, Wadena, Crow Wing, Norman, Polk, Koochiching, and Cass

Who can I contact for additional information regarding the program?

Please contact Nanci Libor, Recruitment & Retention Coordinator, with any additional questions at nanci.libor@state.mn.us or 612-270-6956.